

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-41 are pending. Claims 1-41 are amended. Support for the amendments to Claims 1-41 is self-evident. Thus, no new matter is added.

In response to the Restriction Requirement (“Requirement”) dated October 5, 2009, Applicants elect Group I, listed in the Requirement as readable on Claims 1-35, and Applicants list Claims 1-35 as readable thereon.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Requirement.

37 C.F.R. 1.475 states:

(b) **An international or a national stage application containing claims to different categories of invention will be considered to have unity of invention if the claims are drawn only to one of the following combinations of categories:**

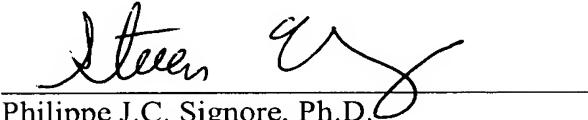
- (1) **A product and a process specially adapted for the manufacture of said product; or**
- (2) A product and a process of use of said product; or
- (3) A product, a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and a use of the said product; or
- (4) A process and an apparatus or means specifically designed for carrying out the said process; or
- (5) A product, a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and an apparatus or means specifically designed for carrying out the said process.

Independent Claim 1 recites an expandable tubular joint and independent Claim 36 recites a method for producing a sealed tubular expanded joint. Thus, under 37 C.F.R. 1.475(b)(1), Applicants respectfully submit that Unity of Invention exists between the pending independent claims. Accordingly, all of the pending independent claims should be examined together.

It is respectfully submitted that the examination on the merits of Claims 1-41 is in order, and an early and favorable Action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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